METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.—The ordinary monthly court was held on Friday 1st inst. Amongst new works ordered on the recommendation of Mr. Forster were 110 feet of 12-inch pipe sewer in Cardigan-street (district rate), at an expense of 15*l.*; 70 feet of 15-inch pipe sewer in Gloucester-place, 17*l.* 10*s.*; trapping gullies in Clifton-road, &c., at an expense to the district of 14*s.* 6*d.* each. Mr. Forster also suggested, in order at once permanently and satisfactorily to drain the whole of St. James's parish, that the following extensive works should be carried out:—First, at the expense of the district, being re-constructions:—

				£	s.	d.
2,194 feet	ft brick sewer, 3 feet 9 inches by 2 feet 3 inches,	in	Queen-street, Great Windmill-street, Marshall-street, and Tyler-street	1,012	17	6
70 feet	do.	do.	in Broad-street	32	7	6
490 feet	do.	do.	in Great Pulteney-street	226	12	6
980 feet	do.	do.	along King-street to Argyle-street	354	15	0
370 feet	do.	do.	in Warwick-street	82	10	0
330 feet	do.	do.	in Argyle-place	132	0	0
660 feet	do.	do.	in Argyle-street	141	10	0
250 feet	do.	do.	in Blenheim-street	93	15	0
200 feet	do.	do.	in Marlborough-mews	91	0	0
500 feet	do.	do.	in Brewer-street	231	2	8
140 feet	do.	do.	in Silver-street	66	0	0
100 feet	12-inch pipe sewer		in Blenheim-street	25	0	0
130 feet	do.		in Blenheim-mews	37	10	0
200 feet	do.		in Queen-street	50	0	0
125 feet	do.		in Nag's Head-yard	31	5	0
220 feet	do.		in Smith's-yard and court	60	0	0
280 feet	do.		in Wellington-mews	70	0	0
220 feet	do.		in Dufour's-place	68	0	0
180 feet	do.		in Cross-street	79	7	6
200 feet	do.		in Cross-court and South-row	50	0	0
200 feet	do.		in West-street	50	0	0

Total cost, 3,031*l.* 12*s.* And secondly, the expense to be defrayed by a special sewers' rate, the streets and places where the works were to be executed not being co-extensive with any separate sewerage district:—

				£	s.	d.
240 feet of	ft brick sewer, 3 feet 9 inches by 2 feet 9 inches,	in	Brewer-street	111	0	0
170 feet	do. and 100 feet of 12-inch pipe sewer		in Silver-street	100	2	6
200 feet of	12-inch pipe sewer		in Golden-square	72	10	0
80 feet	do.		in Sherrard-place	22	10	0
80 feet	do.		in George-passage	22	10	0
90 feet	do.		in Marlborough-court	20	0	0
80 feet	do.		in Lowndes-court	20	0	0
120 feet	do.		in Pew's-place	30	0	0
190 feet	do.		in Little Marlborough-street	47	10	0

Total cost, 446*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* Total quantity of brick sewer, 6,060 feet, and of pipe sewer, 2,935 feet.

The Court agreed that owing to the great magnitude of these works, the recommendations contained in the report should stand as a notice for next meeting, as it was not desirable to undertake such works without letting the public know what they were about.

OMNIBUS IMPROVEMENTS.—Among the applications for space in the great House of Industry, is one for a working model of a new system of propulsion, which dispenses with the locomotive and its noise and smoke, and which the patentee, along with the British Inventors' Protecting Company, propose to apply to the omnibus traffic of the metropolis and other large cities, in such a manner as not to cause any interruption to ordinary street traffic. A working model has been exhibited in the Polytechnic Institution.——Mr. C. J. Pownall, of Addison-road, Kensington, has patented an omnibus tell-tale, for registering the number of passengers who enter the vehicle. An elastic step is pressed down by the foot of the passenger in getting up, and completes an electro-magnetic circuit in a concealed apparatus, which registers each full depression of the step. The idea is no doubt ingenious enough, but we doubt its working well in every-day use. The moment any one puts his foot upon the step and registers his number, either he is in for it or the conductor is so, and it is but too easy to guess the result of such a "registration" on the temper and the tongue of either, when "the wrong omnibus" happens in a hurry to be even momentarily stepped on.

CHANCERY-LANE.—It appears to be not only possible, but probable, that notwithstanding all that has been said, the present singular opportunity of converting this lane into a double wheel-way throughout, by widening the Holborn end of it, at the eastern corner, recently laid open, is to be neglected and lost, although Mr. Taylor, who has worthily exerted himself while cold water was being cast at all hands on his endeavours, has managed to reduce the whole estimated cost of the measure to 2,000*l.*, of which the Paving Commissioners are still willing to pay 750*l.* Why, a tablet of marble commemorative of the donor's liberality, and planted in the corner wall of Lord Radnor's premises at the head of the lane, would be itself well worth the whole amount. What think you, my Lord Radnor? As the ground landlord of so much valuable property in that precise locality, your lordship will not object, we hope, to the erection of such a tablet,—even to your own honour and glory. It would be almost a pity to allow the Paving Commission of the public, to have any place in an inscription so perpetually exciting to the public gratitude for a private benefaction.

WHITE ZINC.—Mr. E. Protheroe, of Austin-friars, has taken out a patent for improvements in the manufacture of zinc oxide for paint. He claims, amongst others, an arrangement of apparatus, consisting of a reverberatory furnace, in which the zinc is melted, and two retorts, in communication with each other, into which the metal flows; so that a constant clean surface of melted zinc is kept submitted to the action of currents of atmospheric air. The lighter portions of the oxide pass up a shaft, and, by a current of steam, to the condensing chambers, the air passing off through suitable chimneys. Bleaching the light oxide by means of water acidulated with sulphuric or acetic acid, and combining the same, to facilitate its drying, with umber, dissolved in muriatic acid over a fire, concentrated to the consistence of butter or honey, and mixed with resin, are also amongst his claims.

A LARGE MOUNTAIN OF QUICK-LIME!—A singular and important discovery, it is said, has been made at Applecross, on the west coast of Scotland. A large mountain called Tore More, on being accidentally excavated, presents a substratum of pure lime, within five feet of the surface; and it is ascertained beyond a doubt that the whole mountain, except an average surface of twenty feet, consists of lime fit for the field or the mason. The hill appears to have been at one time a stupendous limestone rock, submitted to the influence of immense heat. On the summit are found traces of volcanic origin.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—The first meeting for the coming session will take place on the 13th, when Mr. Paxton will read a paper on the building in the park. On the 20th, an exhibition will open of articles patented and registered during the last eighteen months, with the view of practically showing the state and progress of invention during that period. This is intended to be the first of a series of annual exhibitions, each of which will open the sessions of the society, and will embrace all the inventions of the preceding twelve months. The idea appears to be a good one.

ALLMAN'S VOLTAIC LIGHT.—Mr. Allman's patent light, it is said, has obviated the objections which it was ultimately fully admitted that we were right in making as to former attempts, at a time when all were assured that gas was about to be extinguished. A trial of this new endeavour for several hours has been made at the Polytechnic Institution, which we understand was very successful. We have not yet seen it ourselves. One great point said to be gained is the mobility of the electrode by the electric current, according to its own requirements, without any special mechanism: another is, the obtainment, by these and other means, of a steady and continuous light.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.—As we fully anticipated, Mr. C. L. Eastlake, has been placed in the Presidential Chair. This, we suppose, will remove Mr. E. from the Secretaryship of the Fine Arts Commission, and be a loss to him in a pecuniary point of view. A vacancy in the list of Associates was filled by the election of Mr. Hook.

DECORATION AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.—The decoration of Drury-lane Theatre by Mr. Fred. Gye, for the ball on Thursday night, and which we suppose will remain for the coming series of concerts, is exceedingly successful, offering a striking contrast to the melancholy failure in this respect at another house for the "National Concerts."* The stage is lined with white, powdered with roses in gilt wreaths; the chandeliers are carried by wreaths of roses, and statues of the "Nine" are cleverly disposed against back-grounds of pink-shaded gauze flags. The fronts of all the boxes have cream-coloured hangings with swags of artificial flowers: the effect of the whole most summery and pleasant. The glass curtain, which we once described, has been brought back and added to; it includes now, according to a calculation, as nearly as may be, 90,000 glass drops.

SALE OF GLASTONBURY ABBEY ESTATE.—This property was divided into three lots. The first comprised the Abbey, which had cost 8,000*l.* in its erection; the ancient ruins, and about forty acres of rich land. The first offer was 7,000*l.*; the lot was sold for 10,000*l.* The next lot consisted of a residence let at 40*l.* a year, and an acre of ground attached: these went for 1,150*l.* The estate was purchased by Mr. H. Danby Seymour, M.P. for Poole. The chancel was to be sold to that gentleman by private contract.

BELL TURRETS FOR BURGLARIOUS TIMES.—A correspondent, R. M., suggests that the proprietor of every lone house should have a large bell hung conspicuously on the top of his house, with cords communicating with two or three of the principal bed-rooms, so that upon hearing thieves in the house alarm may be given to the whole village. The fact of its being there would in all probability be a preventive to an attempt. The turret bell is an old plan, but at present almost out of use. Architecturally it makes a nice feature. We have had several inquiries as to modes of securing particular houses from thieves, but must leave it to the individual advisers of the parties in question. Iron plating in panels of doors and window shutters, bars from side to side, and small dogs, are efficacious.

TANKS FOR CATTLE.—A correspondent suggests that railway directors ought to have water tanks prepared at their respective depôts for the cattle sent to town by rail, as the protruding tongues, and other revolting and even alarming symptoms of thirst displayed by the poor brutes, but too plainly bespeak the want of such accommodation, which is all the more urgent that, strange to say, there is none even at Smithfield. The suggestion has been repeatedly, but it is painful to think how uselessly, urged in these columns.

PLAN OF THE BUILDING IN HYDE PARK.—Mr. Wyld, with his usual promptitude, has had a *penny* plan of the Exhibition building prepared for the million.

DRAINING AT HAARLEM.—A report made to the Legislature of Holland states the successful progress of the works for laying dry the Haarlem Meer. The advances made amount to 666,000*l.*, and a further sum of 160,000*l.* is to be raised, of which the expenditure of 100,000*l.* can be spread over several years. It is expected the whole undertaking will be completed in 1854.

THE REGENT'S PARK.—It is understood that the Commissioners of Woods and Forests have at length determined that this park shall be properly drained, and Mr. Fulton, engineer, has been instructed to report as to the practicability and expense of such an undertaking.

NEW SURVEY OF CANNINGTON PARISH.—Mr. Hawkes, of Williton, has been appointed to make the new survey of the parish of Cannington. He is to receive 52 guineas for his services.

MALVERN ABBEY CHURCH.—At Great Malvern Abbey Church, a new organ, built for the church, was opened on the 24th ult. Various works have been going on in this interesting old building for some time past,—unfortunately, however, not under professional direction. The same zeal which has been displayed here in doing mischief, would, under proper advice, have effected much good.

* In consequence, apparently, of our observations on the latter, they have been trying to improve the wooden "scallops" to the boxes, and the undertaker's scrutcheons at the back; but nothing can be done with them.

TENDERS

For the Sunderland Baths and Wash-Houses, Mr. Oliver, architect. The following tenders for engineering have been received:—

Glaholm and Son, Newcastle	£780 0 0
Glaholm, Sunderland	780 0 0
Wight and Son	760 0 0
Lamb, Sunderland	760 0 0
Watson, Newcastle	706 0 0
Clark, Monkwearmouth (Accepted)	704 0 0

The engineering work includes 1 large boiler, 1 hot and 1 cold water cistern, 12 zinc baths, 4 shower-baths, 2 vapour baths, hot water and steam fittings to 34 wash-tubs, drying closet with 34 horses, heating-plate, ventilators, 3 self-acting water-closets, pipes, &c.

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